# Case 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-WGC Document 104 Filed 05/17/13 Page 1 of 4

Case 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-WGC Document 98 Filed 04/02/13 Page 1 of 5

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### DISTRICT OF NEVADA

#### ROBISON, BELAUSTEGUI, SHARP & LOW

Kent R. Robison, Esq., NSB # 1167 Kristen Martini, Esq., NSB # 11272 71 Washington Street Reno, Nevada 89503 Telephone: (775) 329-3151

Telephone: (775) 329-3151 Facsimile: (775) 329-7941

## KANNER & WHITELEY, L.L.C.

Allan Kanner, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*)
Elizabeth B. Petersen, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*)
701 Camp Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

New Orleans, LA 70130 Telephone: (504) 524-5777 Facsimile: (504) 524-5763

### JANET, JENNER & SUGGS, LLC

Howard A. Janet, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*) Leah K. Barron, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*) 1829 Reisterstown Road, Suite 320 Baltimore, MD 21208

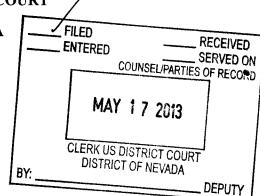
Telephone: (410) 653-3200 Facsimile: (410) 653-6903

#### GERMAN RUBENSTEIN LLP

Steven J. German, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*) Joel M. Rubenstein, Esq. (*Pro Hac Vice*) 19 West 44th Street, Suite 1500 New York, NY 10036

Telephone: (212) 704-2020 Facsimile: (212) 490-4800

Attorneys for Plaintiffs



Case 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-WGC Document 98 Filed 04/02/13 Page 2 of 5

PHILIP ROEDER, ANNA ROEDER, LISA LACKORE, individually and as mother and natural guardian of MELISSA LACKORE and COLE LACKORE, Minors; MICHAEL LACKORE, individually and as father and natural guardian of MELISSA LACKORE and COLE LACKORE, Minors, On Behalf of Themselves and all Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY and BP AMERICA, INC.

Defendants.

Case No. 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-RAM

**ORDER** 

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO SUPPLEMENT THE RECORD ON PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Class Counsel hereby moves to supplement the record in the above-referenced class action that is currently in the notice-and-administration phase of a proposed class action settlement following this Court's grant of preliminary approval on February 25, 2013. Following the preliminary approval hearing, the parties became aware of certain information that bears on Class Counsel's discussion with the Court with regard to anticipated effects of the settlement concerning only those class members who currently own domestic wells. Class Counsel seeks to supplement the record and provide this information to the Court.

The case involves claims of groundwater and airborne contamination around a former mining site located in Yerington, Nevada. As a part of the proposed settlement, class members who own domestic wells within the class area are provided with certain payments in exchange for a release of liability and other commitments outlined in the settlement agreement. Part of the consideration for the proposed settlement was the Defendants' commitment to fund the extension of (including infrastructure and mechanisms for residents to connect to) the City of Yerington's public water supply system ("City Water System"). The settlement agreement provides that those

Case 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-WGC Document 98 Filed 04/02/13 Page 3 of 5

property owners who own domestic wells have the option to close and abandon their wells (at Defendants' expense) at the time of connection to the City Water System. If class members do not abandon their wells at that time, they are still required to enter into an agreement that prohibits use of their well for domestic use purposes inside of the home. The parties' intent was to allow class members the continued use of the wells for other domestic uses outside of the home, including washing cars and irrigation. Such uses would necessarily be limited to those allowed by State law. Class members were informed of these potential limits in the notice mailed on March 4, 2013. Class Counsel discussed this aspect of the propose agreement with the Court at the preliminary approval hearing. *See* Hr'g Tr. 12:19 - 13:24, Feb. 25, 2013 (Exhibit A).

In the weeks following this Court's preliminary approval of the proposed settlement, the parties have continued discussions with the State Engineer's Office and the Nevada Attorney General's Office. The parties have been informed by State representatives that (a) the State interprets the provisions in N.R.S. 534.180 (as well as other provisions) as providing the State with the authority to require any class member with a domestic well to close and abandon such well despite an agreement on use restriction, and (b) the State is likely to exercise that authority should the extension of the City Water System occur given that the proposed class area is in a basin that has been designated as a critical management area due to significant depletion of the water supply. Closure would not be required of any well that has been permitted for agricultural, commercial, irrigation or other broader use. The parties estimate that 200 class members own domestic wells not permitted for broader use.

Class Counsel and the Claims Administrator have advised class members of the prospect that the State would make the decision to close any domestic well in this basin should the City Case 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-WGC Document 104 Filed 05/17/13 Page 4 of 4

Case 3:11-cv-00105-RCJ-WGC Document 98 Filed 04/02/13 Page 4 of 5

Water System be expanded. In addition, Class Counsel plans to hold a public meeting in the

class area on April 4, 2012, and have been available to answer questions from class members.

WHEREFORE, Class Counsel respectfully requests that this Honorable Court grant this

Motion to Supplement the Record with this information received by the parties since the

February 25, 2013 preliminary approval hearing regarding the closure of class members'

domestic wells. Class Counsel continues to support the settlement and work to give putative

class members a full and fair opportunity to participate in the settlement.

**ORDER** 

IT IS SO ORDERED this 17th day of May, 2013.

ROBERT C. JONES

Chief Judge